

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0991

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, PFOR

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC REPORT ON NICHOLAS FANCOURT PARKINSON -  
AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE TO THE US

1. NICHOLAS PARKINSON, A CAREER DIPLOMAT WHO IS PRESENTLY SERVING AS ONE OF TWO DEPUTY SECRETARIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN CANBERRA, WILL SUCCEED SIR PATRICK SHAW AS AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE US. BORN IN HORSHAM, ENGLAND ON DECEMBER 5, 1925, MR. PARKINSON WAS EDUCATED AT THE KINGS SCHOOL IN SYDNEY AND GRADUATED FROM SYDNEY UNIVERSITY WITH FIRST CLASS HONORS IN HISTORY. DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR HE SERVED WITH THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE OVERSEAS FROM 1943-46. HE JOINED THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN 1951.

2. MR. PARKINSON'S FIRST ASSIGNMENT WAS AS A THIRD SECRETARY AT THE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN AND ORIENTAL STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON AND IN LEBANON 1952-53. HE LATER SERVED IN CAIRO, HONG KONG, MOSCOW, WELLINGTON AND KUALA LUMPUR. IN 1966, HE BECAME AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT DFA. FROM 1967 UNTIL 1970, HE SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. HE WAS APPOINTED HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SINGAPORE IN 1970 AND SERVED THERE UNTIL 1974. HE HAS BEEN DEPUTY SECRETARY OF FOREIGN

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AFFAIRS SINCE LATE 1974. DURING THIS PERIOD, HE WAS RESPONSIBLE PRIMARILY FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND MANAGE-

MENT OF THE DEPT. OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND AUSTRALIA IN  
MISSIONS ABROAD.

3. PARKINSON HAS EMPHASIZED IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO RETURN AUSTRALIA TO A QTE SUBSERVIENT END QTE STATUS WITH WASHINGTON BUT WOULD BE MORE ANXIOUS THAN THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY TO ESTABLISH A CLOSER WORKING RELATIONSHIP. HE SAID FURTHER THAT HE PLANNED TO WORK HARD TO ESTABLISH A FULL DIALOGUE WITH THE US IN ALL AREAS OF WORLD AFFAIRS, NOT JUST ON SECURITY QUESTIONS BUT ON ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL QUESTIONS AS WELL.

4. MR. PARKINSON HAS VISITED THE US ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. HE STILL LIKES TO REMINISCE OVER THE FOUR MONTHS THAT HE SPENT IN N.Y. DURING THE 1960 KENNEDY-NIXON CAMPAIGN. HE IS ANXIOUS TO REACH WASHINGTON AND HOPES TO TAKE UP HIS DUTIES ABOUT MARCH 8.

5. MR. PARKINSON HAS A LOW-KEY AND RELAXED PERSONALITY. HE IS A SMALL, BRIGHT EYED, QUICK WITTED MAN WITH A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR. HE HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL AND FORTHCOMING IN HIS DEALINGS WITH THIS EMBASSY. HIS MAJOR INTEREST OUTSIDE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS IN RUNNING HIS WALNUT FARM WEST OF SYDNEY.

6. MR. PARKINSON'S WIFE ROSLYN AND HIS OLDER DAUGHTER SHEENA, 20, A UNIVERSITY STUDENT, PLAN TO ACCOMPANY HIM TO WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, HIS YOUNGER DAUGHTER, JOANNA, 14, WILL PROBABLY REMAIN IN BOARDING SCHOOL IN CANBERRA. MRS. PARKINSON IS A SOFT SPOKEN, OPEN AND FRIENDLY WOMAN WITH A LOT OF QUIET CHARM. PERCIVAL

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